

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A method of producing cerium oxide particles by raising a temperature of a cerium compound from a normal temperature and heating the cerium compound to a temperature range of 400°C to 1200°C, in which the method comprises at least a temperature raising stage of a temperature rise speed of 2°C/hour to 60°C/hour.

2. (Original) The production method for cerium oxide particles according to claim 1, wherein the temperature raising stage of the temperature rise speed of 2°C/hour to 60°C/hour is a first temperature raising stage that is continued until the temperature reaches a temperature range of 200°C to 350°C after rising from the normal temperature.

3. (Original) The production method for cerium oxide particles according to claim 2, wherein after the first temperature raising stage, heating is performed up to the temperature range of 400°C to 1200°C in a second temperature raising stage of a temperature rise speed of 2°C/hour to 200°C/hour.

4. (Previously Presented) The production method for cerium oxide particles according to claim 1, wherein after the temperature reaches the temperature range of 400°C to 1200°C, the temperature is maintained for 10 minutes to 240 hours.

5-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A method of producing cerium oxide particles by  
particles comprising:

supplying a humidified gas in a cerium compound temperature raising process;  
raising a temperature of a cerium compound from a normal temperature  
temperature; and

heating the cerium compound to a temperature range of 400°C to 1200°C, in which the method proceeds via a stage of heating while supplying a humidified gas in a temperature raising process; process;

wherein the humidified gas is supplied starting at a temperature of 100°C or above, and is continuously supplied until a temperature of 200°C to 350°C is reached.

8. (Original) The production method for cerium oxide particles according to claim 7, wherein a water vapor in the humidified gas has a value of 0.5 to 0.8 in a partial pressure ratio calculated through the following expression II:

$$\text{H}_2\text{O}_p / (\text{H}_2\text{O}_p + \text{gas}_p) \quad (\text{II})$$

in the expression,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_p$  represents the partial pressure of water vapor, and  $\text{gas}_p$  represents the partial pressure of the gas.

9. (Previously Presented) The production method for cerium oxide particles according to claim 7, wherein the gas is an oxygen gas, a mixture gas of oxygen and nitrogen, or an air.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) The production method for cerium oxide particles according to claim 7, wherein the cerium compound is a cerium carbonate hydrate.

12-14. (Canceled)